

Appl. No. 10/714,627

H-589-07

Amendment filed December 27, 2004

Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2004

REMARKS

Priority

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's acknowledgment of the claim for priority in the parent application.

Pending Claims

Claims 43-46 are pending. No new claims have been added and no claims have been cancelled.

Double Patenting Rejections

Claims 43-46 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,687,302 and claims 1-4 of U.S. Patent No. 6,711,210. Without admitting to the propriety of the rejections, Applicants submit herewith terminal disclaimers to overcome each of the rejections.

Duty of Disclosure

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's return of the initialed PTO-1449 forms submitted by Applicants.

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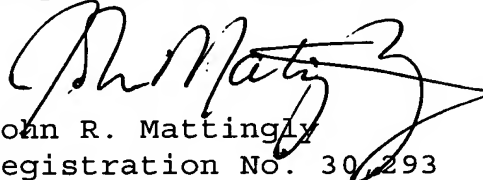
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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination; and respectfully assert that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Mattingly", with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

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